

I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters – but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy – a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system – ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

I am greatly disturbed at the state of media consolidation in this country. I have given up listening to music on the radio. Most stations sound the same. no variety nothing new, nothing interesting , If I hear "Hotel California" one more time I will think I wrote it. I used to look forward to listening to the radio to hear new, adventurous music, or a mix of music some clasicial, some blues , some rock , some jazz, songs I'd never heard before that would introduce me to new artists, new types of music. Actually stimulating the thought process. No more

When Watching Broadcast news I am searching for some insite on a news event. It has gotten to the point where "reporters" are merely transcribers of people they report on. rarely any back ground, when they interview someone waying outlandish statements they say "thank you, back to you Peter, Wolf, Dan.."

No followup questions, No sir you just said black is white, what is the basis for your statement. What is the evidence for your accusation?

I am old enough to remember when reporters actually interacted with someone being interviewed in a way that forwarded my knowledge of the subject, I could get some sort of understanding of a subject .

It seems to me with the media consolidation there is rarely a souce of divergent points of view or insightful reporting. The lack of questioning of the administration by the press in the run up to the

war in Iraq,

The lack of investigation into the unanswered questions surrounding the 9-11 disaster and of the 9-11 commission report, Lack of questioning the classification of documents that appears to be someone's attempt to hide information.

My concern is that the media consolidation is a pattern of limiting access to alternative points of view.

The press is the citizens main tool to be able to understand what our government its people are doing and what we as citizen to be responsible for having our country be the kind of country we want to leave for future generations. Without access to voices from all points of view, to make our decisions. We cease to become citizens. We become merely people to be manipulated for means of another.

Thank you

Mike Smith